

DCRA

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

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DCRA DISPATCH

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Do I Need A Permit?

Whether you're making repairs yourself or hiring a contractor, you're responsible for finding out if you need permits - and getting them before you begin work. If you don't, you could be fined.

You Need A Permit For:

- New construction
- Additions and alterations
- Demolition
- Retaining walls, decks, fences, sheds, garages, and vaults
- Signs, awnings, and canopies
- Swimming pools
- Christmas tree and fireworks stands

You **DON'T** Need A Permit For:

Unless you're in a historic district, you don't need permits for:

- Brick pointing, caulking, patching, or plaster repair
- Installation of cabinets and millwork
- Installation of window screens and storm windows
- Repair of existing fences with like materials
- Retaining walls, 18 inches or less
- Construction of garden storage sheds that meet DC Official Code § 107.3.3 requirements
- Painting, if it's not with fire-retardant paint

Replacement of:

- non-rated windows and doors
- roofing, siding, gutters, and downspouts
- private sidewalks, driveways, and patios
- non-rated suspended ceiling tile
- floor coverings
- gypsum board, up to 160 square feet
- storm drain piping, up to 50 linear feet
- sanitary/drainage system piping, up to 10 linear feet
- sanitary venting piping, up to 20 linear feet
- hydraulic system piping, up to 50 linear feet
- duct work, in non-hazardous and commercial kitchen exhaust systems, up to 10 linear feet

Sprucing Up Your Yard This Spring?

If plans include replacing or putting up a new fence, you need a permit

Ensuring fences are installed properly is critical to the health and safety of District residents.

If you plan to repair an existing fence or install a new fence on your property this spring, you need a permit from the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

To receive a permit for your project you need to provide several documents and in some cases photos of your property before work can begin. A summary of the documents you need is provided below.

If the fence you are building runs along your neighbor's property line, you will need to get permission and obtain his/her signature before a permit can be approved.

In general, the maximum height of a fence in a residential zone is seven feet on the side and rear of a property and 42 inches in the front. A fence in a residential zone may be 10 feet in height with the approval of the adjacent property owners.

Applications for permits to install or repair a fence should include an official building plat with a drawing of where the proposed fence location would go.

DCRA can provide you with the homeowner's guide to help you draw the plans for your new fence, saving you time and money. You may also visit the DCRA Homeowner's Center on the second floor at 941 North Capitol, NE to get help in completing your application package.



Photo Courtesy of ANC2C02

In most cases, permits for fence projects can be completed the same day or within 24 hours.

To get a jumpstart on your project, visit www.dcrd.dc.gov and click on "Permits" to begin the application process online. If you have any questions or need directions to DCRA, please call (202) 442-4400.

Tree In The Way?

If you have a tree that needs to be removed or trimmed as part of your fence project, please review the District's rules for tree removal and maintenance on the District Department of Transportation's website www.ddot.dc.gov under "Tree Management."

FENCE PERMIT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

PERMIT TYPE	Environmental Intake Form	Architectural & Engineering Plans	DC Surveyor Plat	Public Space Application	Site Plans	Party Line Agreement	Site Photos
Fence - Party Line	1	none	3	none	none	1	none
Fence - Private Property (iron/masonry)	1	3	3	none	none	none	none
Fence - Private Property (wood/chain link)	1	none	3	none	none	none	none
Fence - Public Space	1	none	3	1	2	none	3 Photos
Fence - Historic Zone	1	3	3	none	none	none	3 Photos

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www.dcrd.dc.gov

Call DCRA at (202) 442-4400 or visit us at 941 North Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20002.